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May 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 156 - April 2020

Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

(RI/FS)

CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On April 2, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG, and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a teleconference to discuss comments and clarifications on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy Feasibility Study (IR FS).
- On April 7, Region 2 and CPG representatives conducted a teleconference regarding the LPRSA.
- On April 7, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss source definition and other major Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS issues.
- On April 15, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss CPG responses to Region 2 comments on 2019 Biota Sample collection lessons learned and preliminary Current Conditions Biota Sampling data.
- On April 16, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS source definition, Remedial Acton Objective (RAO) 2 erosion analysis, sediment sources above River Mile (RM) 15 and IR Completion.

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- On April 23, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss dredge to clean, Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Completion Decision Framework, remaining source areas and possible sediment sources above RM 15.
- On April 28, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss IR Completion (Draft IR FS Appendix H).
- On April 30, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss dredge to clean/lines of evidence framework, Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Completion, and other remaining FS issues.

Correspondence

- On April 2, Region 2 provided CPG slides for the April 2 teleconference to discuss comments and clarifications on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On April 2, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding scheduling IR FS teleconference calls.
- On April 2, CPG provided Region 2 slides for the April 2 teleconference to discuss comments and clarifications on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On April 2, Region 2 provided CPG revised Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Source Definition.
- On April 3, Region 2 provided CPG draft minutes from the February 25 teleconference and March 25 IR FS meeting #25 and action items from the April 2 teleconference call.
- On April 7, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding scheduling teleconference calls to discuss Draft IR FS Appendix D comments and review preliminary Current Conditions Biota Sampling data.
- On April 10, Region 2 provided CPG with information regarding issues to be discussed during the scheduled April 16 teleconference call.
- On April 13, Region 2 provided CPG the definition of source as agreed upon by Region 2 and NJDEP.
- On April 14, CPG provided responses to Region 2 comments on CPG's Current Conditions Biota Sampling lessons learned provided to Region 2 on March 11, 2019.
- On April 15, CPG provided Region 2 and NJDEP the presentation for the April 15 teleconference to discuss preliminary Current Conditions Biota Sampling data.
- On April 15, Region 2 provided CPG slides for the April 16 teleconference to discuss IR FS source definition, RAO 2 erosion analysis, sediment sources above RM 15 and IR Completion.
- On April 15, CPG provided Region 2 suggested changes to the RAO footnote in the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On April 15, CPG provided suggested changes to the April 13, 2020 Draft IR FS Source Sediments definition to Region 2.
- On April 15, CPG delivered the March Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On April 16, Region 2 responded to CPG Draft IR FS Source Sediments definition comments.
- On April 16, CPG submitted a collection permit application to NJDEP for the 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.

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- On April 23, CPG provided Region 2 presentation materials for the scheduled April 23 teleconference to discuss dredge to clean, Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Completion Decision Framework, remaining source areas and possible sediment sources above RM 15.
- On April 23, CPG provided comments on the Draft IR FS completion statistical methodology to Region 2.
- On April 27, CPG provided questions to Region 2 regarding the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Completion Decision Framework.
- On April 23, CPG provided Region 2 comments on the draft minutes from the February 25 teleconference and March 25 meeting and call-in information for the scheduled April 30 teleconference call.
- On April 28, Region 2 provided NJDEP's questions regarding Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Completion testing and statistics to CPG.
- On April 28, Region 2 provided responses to NJDEP comments on the statistical development of the number of samples to be collected during the Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) to CPG.
- On April 29 CPG provided Region 2 with a schedule update for planned Current Conditions 2020 Physical Water Column Monitoring (PWCM) in-water monitoring equipment servicing activities.
- On April 29, Region 2 requested a discussion regarding the collection permit application to NJDEP for the 2020 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program.
- On April 29 and 30, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding the 2020 Current Conditions Biota collection permit.
- On April 30, Region 2 provided action items from the April 30 teleconference to discuss dredge to clean/lines of evidence framework, Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS Completion and other remaining FS issues.

Work

- CPG continued work on supplemental modeling projections for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG continued reviewing and response to Region 2 comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG prepared for a 2020 in-water monitoring equipment servicing event for the PWCM component of Current Conditions Sampling.
- CPG continued developing the QAPP for the Current Conditions High Volume (HV) CWCM program.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued analysis and validation of 2019 Current Conditions Sampling Biota composite tissue samples.

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(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- On April 15, CPG uploaded Electronic Data Deliverables (EDDs) of validated data from the September 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling program event to the EPA SharePoint site and preliminary, unvalidated data received in March 2020.
- On April 17, CPG uploaded preliminary data from the first 2020 Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment servicing event (March 24–25) to the EPA SharePoint site.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will continue to respond to comments and revise the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will conduct Current Conditions PWCM in-water monitoring equipment servicing and CWCM sampling events if river conditions and COVID 19 restrictions permit.
- CPG will continue supplemental modeling projections for the Draft Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- CPG will continue analysis of the Current Conditions Biota composite tissue samples.
- CPG will continue validation of Current Conditions Biota tissue data.

(d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

 Contractor Corporate and New Jersey work/travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 could delay 2020 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter

CPG Project Coordinator

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cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel

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